

From: [Epp, Timothy](#)
To: [Career Deputy Assistant Administrators; Leadership Deputy Associate Administrators; Leadership Assistant Administrators; Leadership Regional Administrators; Leadership Deputy Regional Administrators; Leadership Associate Administrators; Leadership Deputy Assistant Administrators; Deputy Regional Counsels; Regional Counsels; Regional FOIA Officers; FOIA Coordinators-Officers-Alternates-and-Supervisors; EPA FOIA Community](#)
Cc: [Chaudhary, Dimple; Hope, Brian; Joffe, Brian; OGC NFO; Vendello, Lynn; Gross, Louann; Wachtler, Eric; Weaver, Susannah](#)
Subject: February 2022 EPA FOIA Backlog Report
Date: Friday, February 4, 2022 9:20:17 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Colleagues,

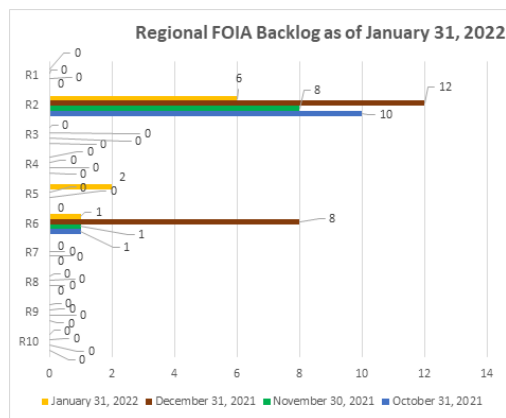
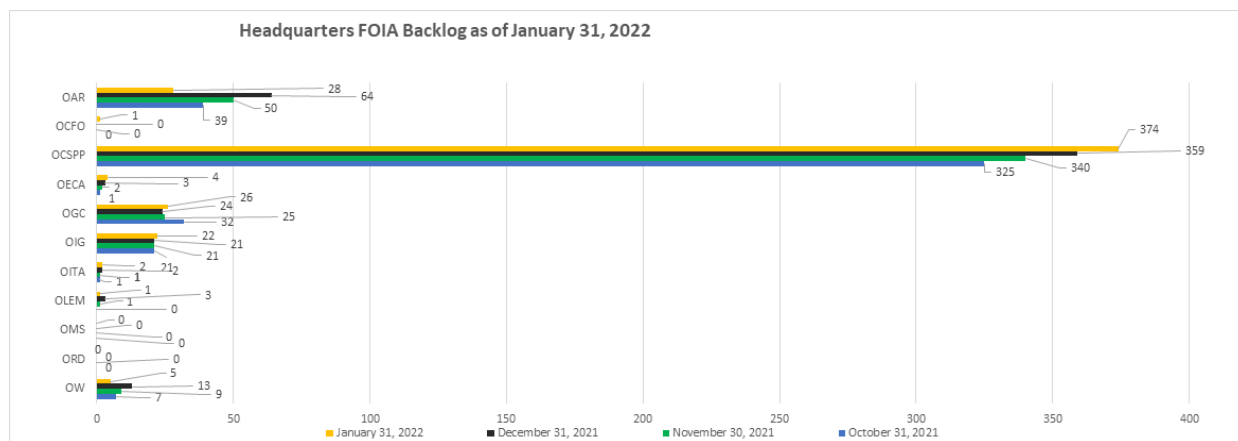
Overall, the Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests went down in January, but remains above what it was at the beginning of the fiscal year. The backlog at the end of January decreased to 1,105 as compared to 1,146 at the end of December; the January backlog shows progress although remaining higher than 1,056 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

- **Significant congratulations to OAR for having completely erased that office's FY22 first quarter increase and achieving a backlog lower than the beginning of the fiscal year. Congratulations also goes to Region 2 and OW for cutting their backlog in half or more this month.**

Congratulations for a zero backlog at the end of January goes to OMS, ORD and Regions 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The following additional offices also maintained very low backlog numbers: Regions 5 and 6, and OCFO, OECA, OITA, OLEM. Low backlog numbers help the Agency's overall commitment to transparency and the objective to eliminate the FOIA backlog.

End of December Overdue FOIA Data

The charts below show the number of overdue FOIA requests in EPA headquarters program offices and the regions at the end of the most recent four months: January 2022, and December, November, and October 2021. The Office of the Administrator's backlog decreased to 633 at the end of January from 637 at the end of December.



For this report, overdue FOIA request is defined as a FOIA request pending for more than 20 working days as of the end of the month or beyond an applicable due date extension that has been documented in FOIAonline (by agreement, proper notice of unusual circumstances, or notice of clock stoppage for clarification or fee assurances that is recorded as a due date extension). Please note that this definition of the backlog is different from the definition required for the Agency's annual report to the Department of Justice, which does not take into account unusual circumstances extensions beyond 10 days or other statutorily authorized due date extensions documented in the FOIAonline tracking system.

The October data in this report was generated from FOIAonline on November 1; the November data on December 7, 2021; the December data on January 3, 2022; and the January data on February 1, 2022. If you would like to discuss the data, what additional data you would like to see reported, or to discuss ideas on how we can more rapidly reduce the Agency's FOIA backlog and more effectively meet the Agency's FOIA responsibility, please contact me at epp.timothy@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2830.

Tim

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